

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05 /065 W
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O P 211230Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6351
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
CINCUSNAVEUR
COMIDEASTFOR

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT LOUIS 1124

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT MP
SUBJECT: MAURITIAN PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS: MAURITIAN
MILITANT MOVEMENT IS WINNING, WITH ABOUT HALF
OF VOTES COUNTED

1. AT 1600 HOURS LOCAL, WITH ABOUT HALF THE VOTES COUNTED,
THE MAURITIAN MILITANT MOVEMENT (MMM) HAS WON 15 SEATS AND
IS LEADING FOR ANOTHER 12 SEATS, MAKING A POSSIBLE TOTAL OF 27
OUT OF THE 62 SEATS BEING DECIDED TODAY. THE INDEPENDENCE
PARTY LED BY PRIME MINISTER RAMGOOLAM HAS WON 6 SEATS AND
IS LEADING FOR AN ADDITIONAL 18, MAKING A POSSIBLE TOTAL
OF 24. THE MAURITIAN SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY (PMSD) HAS
WON 3 SEATS AND IS LEADING FOR 6, FOR A TOTAL OF 9. THE
RODRIGUES DISTRICT (2 SEATS) HAS YET TO REPORT ANY RETURNS.

2. TWELVE OF THE 20 DISTRICTS OF MAURITIUS ARE STILL TWO
CLOSE TO CALL DEFINITELY, SO THERE MAY BE SOME SHIFTS IN
THE ABOVE FIGURES AS COUNTING PROCEEDS. BUT THE FACT OF
AN UNEXPECTEDLY STRONG SHOWING BY THE MMM CANNOT BE DENIED.

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3. COMMENT: REGARDLESS OF THE FINAL OUTCOME AND THE PROBLEMS
OF FORMING A GOVERNMENT, THESE ELECTION RESULTS ARE A DECIDED
PSYCHOLOGICAL BLOW FOR RAMGOOLAM AS HE SEES MANY TRADITIONAL
LABOR PARTY VOTERS AND DISTRICTS DESERTING THE FOLD. RAMGOOLAM
IS WINNING HIS OWN SEAT EASILY. THE PMSD'S DUVAL SUFFERED A
HUMILIATING DEFEAT AND WILL BE OUT OF POLITICS, AT LEAST FOR

A WHILE. THE MMM'S BERENGER IS RUNNING A CLOSE FIFTH IN HIS DESTRIC
BUT LOOKS LIKE A LOSER AT THIS POINT.

4. A MAJORITY VICTORY BY THE MMM, MEANING ITS WINNING 32
SEATS, IS STILL A POSSIBILITY. A FIRST-PLACE FINISH BY THE
MMM, BUT SHORT OF A MAJORITY, SEEMS A PROBABILITY AT THIS
POINT. EITHER RESULT HAS SERIOUS IMPLICATIONS FOR THE
FUTURE STABILITY AND ORIENTATION OF MAURITIUS. END COMMENT.
KEELEY

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